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LOCAL RESIDENTS CELEBRATE PERMANENT PROTECTION OF 634-ACRE PROPERTY KNOWN AS "THE BOULDERS"

Crane and Co. Recognized for Toxics Use Reductions Success

Dalton - Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Herzfelder, officials from the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG), and Crane and Company announced that the DFG's Division of Fisheries & Wildlife has acquired a conservation restriction on 634 acres of land owned by Crane and Company to ensure the property will remain protected and open to the public in perpetuity. Secretary Herzfelder also presented Crane and Company with an award recognizing the company for its effort to eliminate the use of sulfuric acid and for significantly reducing the use of sodium hypochlorite in their paper making process.

"The Boulders property provides exceptional habitat for several rare plants, a rare butterfly and many other wildlife species and the area is very popular with local residents for hiking, cross country skiing, fishing, hunting, and wildlife observation," Secretary Herzfelder said. "Acquiring a conservation restriction on this property will guarantee that the wildlife habitat is protected and recreational access is ensured, while Crane and Company will continue its stewardship of the land and have rights to responsibly utilize the abundant water resource on the property for its business activity."

Crane and Company has historically allowed public use on the Boulders property, which borders both the Appalachian Trail and the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife's 6,437-acre Chalet Wildlife Management Area. DFW acquired the conservation restriction on the 634 acre property for \$310,000, with the money coming from the agency's Wildlands Stamp account. The Wildlands Stamp is funded by donations and a \$5.00 charge on all hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses sold in Massachusetts.

At the ceremony in Dalton today, Secretary Herzfelder and Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) Director Paul Richard also recognized Crane & Co., Inc. for their efforts in the elimination of their use of sulfuric acid and significant reduction in their use of sodium hypochlorite. Crane & Co. achieved these reductions by modifying the process chemistry for the re-pulping of off specification papers. The sulfuric acid was

replaced with an innovative liquid carbon dioxide system and the sodium hypochlorite was reduced by specifying cleaner raw materials, and by controlling the temperature and pH of the process. The company reduced its use of sulfuric acid by 697,000 lbs per year and sodium hypochlorite by 576,000 lbs per year.

“Crane & Co., Inc. has built a strong working partnership with OTA that has yielded impressive environmental benefits,” said Secretary Herzfelder. “I commend Crane & Co., Inc. for their excellent corporate citizenship and urge other firms to find out what less toxic alternatives are available to manufacturers.”

A toxics use reduction project was initiated by the company’s Research and Development Department to replace the sulfuric acid used in this process with a less toxic chemical. Crane recognized the benefit that a more benign material would eliminate a significant worker safety hazard, while reducing equipment and maintenance costs associated with a strongly corrosive material such as sulfuric acid.

“We are here today to acknowledge that a company that made toxics use reduction in their manufacturing process a priority succeeded in their efforts. The company not only improved their manufacturing efficiency but also reduced costs,” said Director Paul Richard. “Crane’s leadership and successes demonstrate how companies can successfully integrate toxic use reduction strategies.”

“The protection of this property through the conservation restriction was one of the most significant land protection projects for our department this past fiscal year,” said David Peters, Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game. “This is an incredibly diverse habitat area and its location abutting the Chalet WMA along with the wildlife resources makes this a signature acquisition for our department.”

The Boulders property has 466 acres in Pittsfield, 90 acres in Lanesboro, and 78 acres in Dalton. The property is categorized as Biomap Core Habitat by the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife because of the diversity of wildlife present. The DFW acquired more than 3,600 acres of open space in FY04 with funds from the Wildlands Stamp account and state open space bonds authorized by the state Legislature and approved for expenditure by the Romney administration.

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